

THREE STORES AND TENEMENT GUTTED BY TWO BIG FIRES

Four Families in East Side Driven Into Frigidity of Streets When Flames Visit Crowded Building—Fire Captain Rescues Aged Cripple from Death.

Connor's Clothing Store, Corbit's Photo Shop and Lee's Clothing and Shoe Store in East Main Street Swept by Blazes—Firemen Coated With Ice.

Two spectacular fires early today caused a total property loss estimated at approximately \$30,000, endangering the lives of two score of persons who fled or were carried in their night clothes through smoke-filled hallways and tenements into the frigid atmosphere of the street.

The first fire broke out shortly after 3 o'clock this morning, in the business block at 1456 Main street, occupied by Bill's Hat Store and G. M. Stadler, a feather merchant, and at 1454 Main street by the J. W. Connors Clothing Co. and L. H. Corbit, photographer, who occupies the second and third floors over the clothing store.

The loss to the four concerns, Connors being the greatest sufferer, will total \$15,000.

Hemmed in by great billows of smoke, four families occupied the second and third floors of the tenements at 589 and 591 East Main street, were saved from death by suffocation, at 9 o'clock, by heroic firemen who effected many thrilling rescues, and one woman suffering from shock had to be taken to the hospital.

The block in which the fire occurred runs from 587 to 593 East Main street. The first floor is occupied by the owner Benjamin Lee, who conducts a shoe store at 593 and a clothing store at 587. The entrance to the two tenements is situated between the two stores.

This morning James Lynch of 173 Nichols street, built a fire in the stove in the rear of the shoe store and went into the cellar to chop some wood. Lee was reading a paper near the stove when he observed the counter on which lay piled number of blankets and fire. He lost his presence of mind and fled into the street yelling "fire!"

The flames spread with startling rapidity and soon the entire exterior of the block front and rear was ablaze. Great billows of smoke poured up through the tenements where despite the lateness of the hour all of the families were still in bed asleep.

John Connery, who occupies the floor directly over the shoe shop, was ill in bed and his sister-in-law, Miss Mary Eager, 65 years, lay in an adjoining room, ill and unable to get up. Hand or foot, owing to rheumatism. Smelling smoke he was about to get out of bed when he noticed tongues of flame coming up through the floor.

Jumping out of bed he grabbed his daughter, an infant about a year of age, and told his wife to carry the other daughter, Ethel, seven years, to the street. As he opened the door leading to the hallway, clouds of smoke rushed in upon them. All the family were in their nightclothes.

Connery took his wife's hand and groping through the hallway they made their way to the back stair and thence to safety.

In the meantime, the fire apparatus having reached the scene, Capt. Arthur Platt was told that an invalid was lying in the tenement. He started twice up the front stair and each time was driven back by smoke and flame. The third venture he got down on his hands and knees and managed to reach Miss Eager's room. Throwing a blanket over her head the fire captain held her securely in his arms, half staggering and half falling down the stairs to the street with his burden.

Miss Eager was removed to Freedman Brothers' furniture store at 585 East Main street and the emergency hospital corps was called to the scene, the woman having become hysterical from the shock of her experience. Dr. S. I. Aranki took her to the Bridgeport hospital.

Features of Fires That Broke Out in City This Morning

Four families, including score of children, clad only in nightclothes narrowly escape death in tenement fire in the East Side.

Benjamin Lee's shoe and clothing store in East Main street gutted. Stock valued at \$15,000 completely ruined.

Fire in business block at 1152-54-56-58 Main street cleans out Corbit's Photo Supply Co.

J. W. Connors Clothing Co., suffers estimated loss of \$7,000 by smoke and water to stock. Forced to suspend business for day.

Ice coated firemen suffer intensely while fighting flames and frigid weather hampers work of department.

Total loss caused by both fires approximately \$30,000.

AMERICANS WITH GERARD DODGING FOOD SHORTAGE

Find Conditions in Switzerland More Pleasant Than in Germany.

Berne, via Paris, Feb. 13.—Americans who arrived here from Germany with Ambassador Gerard are congratulating themselves on having escaped further wrestling with Germany's food problem. Butcher windows, well stocked with assorted meats, such as are seen here, are an unwelcome sight in Berlin. Meat is now so scarce in the German capital that it is never hung in windows to attract buyers, but it is speedily distributed without advertising. Customers keep in close touch with the butcher so as to know when the next meagre supply will be on sale.

Virtually all meat is sold on a card entitling each person to have a pound weekly, but dishes made of kidneys, lungs and other scraps can be bought in restaurants without a card. Game and poultry are exempt from the card system and command extraordinary prices. The maximum price of pork and mutton range from 50 to 70 cents, but a dollar more is paid at back doors for, despite Germany's genius for organization, much surreptitious dealing prevails. Even German officials, usually models of the strictest obedience to the laws, give hungry children the advantage of a loose interpretation and do not put awkward questions.

The rich of course suffer comparatively little. They are still able to buy high priced poultry or fish. Turkeys, geese and chickens still are displayed in poulterers' windows and bear labels announcing that they can be purchased at from \$1.20 to \$1.50 a pound. Cases have been even reported where a fat goose brought more than \$30.

The poorer people, especially in Berlin, undoubtedly are suffering from hunger, as their food is confined mainly to bread, potatoes, turnips and low grade marmalade. It is generally asserted that in the country districts the food problem is less pressing than in the big cities, producers retaining supplies for home consumption.

In spite, however, of the fact that food is very scarce, one seldom sees any one visibly showing marks of under feeding. Some elderly persons and some anxious mothers look emaciated before their food is quite general. A common question asked when friends meet is "How many pounds have you lost?"

The general verdict is that the health of the people is better than before the war when over eating had almost assumed the character of a national besetting sin. Short commons are borne cheerfully and the people are mostly disposed to jest over the matter where the pinch is not too keen.

The big crowds at the variety shows (Continued on Page 2)

YOUNG WOMAN THROWS SELF BEFORE TRAIN

Boston, Feb. 13.—An unidentified woman, apparently about 20 years old, jumped in front of a southbound Washington street tunnel train at the Boylston street station today and was instantly killed. Witnesses said the act was deliberate. The woman was dressed in deep mourning and there were no marks on her clothing to indicate her identity. Traffic was held up for some time until the body was removed.

Joseph Farry, motorman of the train, was held by the police pending an investigation. Farry said the woman jumped from the platform some distance from the station stop and that the momentum of the train was such that he had no opportunity to apply the emergency brakes.

BIG DEFICIENCY BILL PROBED IN SENATE SESSION

Minority Leader O'Sullivan Asks Pertinent Questions About Items.

MANAGEMENT LAX AVERS HEMINGWAY

Measure is Put on Table for Further Inquiry By Senate Leader.

(Special to The Farmer.) Hartford, Feb. 13.—Senator P. B. O'Sullivan, Democratic minority leader today held up the Deficiencies Bill, which calls for an expenditure of \$690,502.86 to cover deficiencies of the last two years in various state departments. It was tabled for further investigation.

Senator O'Sullivan particularly inquired into the provision to cover a \$30,000 deficiency in the printing of public documents. Senator Boyd, chairman of the committee on appropriations, said the increased cost of paper and labor are partly responsible for the miscalculation.

Senator Hemingway, Democrat, of Hartford, said there must be very lax management somewhere when the state could come no nearer than this in estimating the expenditures for two years. He expressed the hope that under the new budget system such discrepancies will be done away with.

The resolution was about to be put to a vote when Senator O'Sullivan arose and asked that the bill be put on the table until he has had a chance to further consider it. It was tabled.

When the bill came up today for consideration, Senator Boyd reported some minor change, including the addition of a deficiency of \$10,000 instead of \$5,000 for the care of the sick and wounded. A new item of \$500, deficiency in the Hartford county common pleas court was added.

OPPOSITION TO MILITARY BILL DURING HEARING

Four Items in Draft Questioned—Large Attendance at Session.

(Special to The Farmer.) Hartford, Feb. 13.—Considerable opposition developed this afternoon to the military bill, the draft of which was submitted to the committee on military affairs last week.

When the hearing was called opposition developed to these features: Authorization of the mayor to call out the militia when the governor is not available.

Care of dependent families of soldiers. Pension provisions.

It was urged that the item referring to the care of dependent families of soldiers be dropped, and a clearer and more definite statement was asked.

It was suggested that the pension provisions be made broader so that mothers would be included. As the draft stands, only dependent widows and children are named.

There was a large attendance at the hearing, and among those present was Major J. Moss Ives of Danbury, who drafted the bill for the special military advisory board appointed by Gov. Holcomb.

Favorable Report on Morehouse's Bill For New Washington Bridge

(Special to The Farmer.) Hartford, Feb. 13.—The committee on roads, rivers and bridges presented a favorable report today on Representative Ivan Morehouse's bill for new Washington bridge. It was referred to the committee on appropriations.

The bridge is planned to cost \$900,000; \$300,000 to be paid by the state, \$300,000 by the Connecticut Co. and the other third, by New Haven and Fairfield counties.

Representative Morehouse's bill for the extension of power of the finance board in Stratford, which was heard by the judiciary committee, has been referred to the committee on cities and boroughs for further consideration.

State Auditor Tobin Renamed For 4 Years

(Special to The Farmer.) Hartford, Feb. 13.—James P. Tobin, of East Hartford, state auditor, was re-elected for a term of four today by the Senate, under a suspension of the rules, in concurrence with the action of the House last week. Tobin beat out County Commissioner Albert H. Lanphere, of New London.

TO PROBE TREASURER'S BOOKS

Norfolk, Feb. 13.—The selectmen today issued a call for a town meeting on Feb. 19, to consider the question of action on the investigation of an alleged shortage in the town's funds and to give the selectmen authority to proceed in the matter. The town treasurer, Philemon W. Johnson, has been named since Jan. 21, and a warrant for his arrest has been issued.

THE WEATHER

Fair tonight; Wednesday increasing cloudiness; warmer.

DAYS OF GRACE ELAPSED, SUBMARINES BEGIN THEIR DEADLY WARFARE TODAY

STEAMER AFRIC REPORTED SUNK

New York, Feb. 13.—The White Star line has a report that the steamship Afric has been sunk. Officials of the company say that they have no confirmation. The Afric has a gross tonnage of 11,999. She was last reported in the maritime register as leaving Cape Town, Africa, on Dec. 3 with her destination not given.

AMERICAN IS INJURED BY SHELL WHEN U-BOAT ATTACKS BRITISH SHIP

Queenstown, Feb. 13, via London.—Of the three American firemen who were aboard the British steamship Saxonian when she was shelled, torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine last Wednesday, one, James Weygard, was wounded by a shell splinter and is now in the hospital here.

BRITISH LINERS ARRIVE

New York, Feb. 13.—Two British passenger liners, the Laconia from Liverpool, Feb. 3, and the Ascania from London, Jan. 25, reached here today and reported having passed through the war zone without being stopped or sighting anything unusual.

NO EXCITEMENT IN GERMANY AT BREAK WITH U. S.

First Americans Reach Amsterdam With Stories That Berlin is Calm.

Rotterdam, Feb. 13.—Two Americans who have reached Rotterdam since their break in diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States, although in both cases their passports had been applied for before the rupture, gave similar accounts of present conditions in Germany to the Associated Press today. One of these men came from Berlin, the other from Frankfurt. Each had been in Germany a little more than a year, and in that time each man lost 30 pounds in weight.

Theodore Wurslin, an engineer of Jamaica, N. Y., said his experiences with workmen in Berlin showed him that they were tired of war but, nevertheless, determined to hold out. Many of them earn good wages, virtually all of which they spend for food and they are thus better off than persons higher in the social scale. Mr. Wurslin said he often saw groups of British, French and Russian war prisoners, especially Russians, sweeping the streets, carting goods and performing other labor. He said they were never molested or insulted. Of Mr. Wurslin's 10 American associates about half had decided to remain in Germany, whatever happened.

The other American is a New York business man, who said the food situation was very bad in Frankfurt. He told harrowing stories of the hardships undergone by the people, who, he said, were utterly weary of the war but entirely devoted to the military leaders.

Both these men asserted that the break between Germany and America had caused no excitement, that Americans in Germany were well treated and that no apprehension need be felt for the welfare of those left behind. While agreeing that most articles of food were still to be had by persons with well filled purses, they said the poorer classes were suffering but that the country was not near the starvation point.

Many Seek Hearing On Sunday Measure

Hartford, Feb. 13.—So many persons were desirous of being heard today for or against the numerous measures legalizing Sunday amusements that the judiciary committee of the General Assembly held a hearing this afternoon in the House of Representatives.

Among other bills to be heard is one calling for a state-wide vote on a bill permitting amateur sports and moving pictures on Sunday. Other bills to be heard would legalize athletic games on Sunday, permit moving pictures and also permit the sale of certain articles on Sunday.

\$25,000,000 In Gold Here For Morgan Co.

New York, Feb. 13.—Gold amounting to \$25,000,000 has arrived from Canada for J. P. Morgan & Co. for account of the British government. It was learned today. This is the first large consignment for British account since early in January, when the movement was suspended with the placing of the British loan in this market. The gold reached here presumably by way of Halifax and other large consignments are expected.

So far this year gold imports from Europe amount to \$75,000,000, while exports, chiefly to South America and Cuba, approximate \$12,000,000.

TEN KILLED IN FIRE

Mexico City, Feb. 13.—At least 10 persons were killed and many others were wounded in a fire that destroyed a Mexican Central warehouse late last night.

President Meets With Cabinet and Discusses Measures of Preparedness for Eventualities That Overt Act, Momentarily Expected, Will Bring—Austrians Will Leave With Bernstorff and Break With Dual Monarchy is Looked for Soon—Gerard Will Leave Switzerland for Paris Tonight.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Berlin's formal announcement that the time has expired for all exceptions in the campaign of ruthlessness turned attention today to the questions which confront the American government in whatever next steps may be taken to meet the situation.

President Wilson abandoned his usual morning game of golf and remained at work in his study. In the afternoon the cabinet met and went over the situation.

While it was reiterated today that the president would not be rushed into war, it was plain that all officials realized that the much feared overt act might come at any time.

Some members of the families of officials attached to the Austro-Hungary embassy have arranged to leave the United States with Count Von Bernstorff and his party. In some quarters these arrangements were regarded as significant in view of the indefinite state of relations with Austria-Hungary.

This was Count Von Bernstorff's last day in Washington. The former ambassador and Countess Von Bernstorff and the embassy staff will leave here late tonight for New York, where they take passage tomorrow on the Danish liner Frederik VIII for home.

The count and countess spent much of the day in bidding adieu to personal friends, of whom they number many, and in completing 11th hour packing. Final arrangements also had been made for turning over the embassy to Dr. Paul Ritter, Swiss minister, who will look after German interests in the United States.

PUTS RESPONSIBILITY ON U. S.

London, Feb. 13.—"President Wilson wishes to make an attempt to break the German blockade; the American government must be responsible for what happens," says the Berlin Vossische Zeitung in commenting on the report that two American merchant vessels had left for the blockaded zone, according to the Exchange Telegraph Co.

GERARD GOES TO PARIS TONIGHT

Berne, Feb. 13.—Ambassador Gerard announced last night that he probably would leave for Paris this evening with the immediate embassy staff. He informed other Americans desirous of returning to America that they were welcome to accompany him, but must make their passport and other arrangements through the legation here, which now has sole jurisdiction. In consequence the legation has been thronged by about 100 Americans whose passports are good only for Germany and neutral countries and must be validated for France by special state department authorization.

Spanish Ambassador Takes Over Embassy of U. S. in Berlin

Berlin, Monday, Feb. 12, by wireless to the Associated Press via Sayville, Feb. 13.—The building formerly occupied by the American embassy was almost deserted today when L. Polo De Bernabe, the Spanish ambassador, arrived to take over representation of American interests in Germany. The ambassador will retain part of the former clerical force, which is familiar with the routine. Gil De Gado has been installed as personal representative of the senate and a member of the foreign relation committee. At his request it was referred to the committee.

Senator Saulsbury would not say whether the bill had been discussed with the administration, but it is understood that it might prove acceptable as a measure short of war designed to curb ruthless submarine warfare.

FEAR RAIDS AS VILLA BANDITS NEAR BOUNDARY

Columbus, N. M., Feb. 13.—The boldness of the band of Villa followers who have made camp at Palomas, Mex., only six miles below the international boundary, is interpreted here as a political rather than a military move by Villa.

While the military authorities here say that another raid on this place by the Villa forces is not expected, precautionary measures are being taken, including instructions to a fleet of airplanes with observers to make a flight today along the border in the hope of obtaining further information about conditions in Palomas.

Persons here claiming to be in touch with Villa's plans say if the rebels are allowed to occupy Palomas undisturbed other border towns will be seized, including Juarez.

CARMODY STATE ATTORNEY

Waterbury, Feb. 13.—Attorney Terence F. Carmody was notified today of his selection for the office of state attorney in Waterbury, to succeed John F. Kellogg, recently nominated for a judge of the superior court. The appointment will be formally made by Judge Webb in the superior court in this city on Feb. 20.

Ruthless Submarine Warfare Is Attacked In Senate Measure

Washington, Feb. 13.—A bill directed against ruthless submarine warfare and proposing to open the ports, harbors and waters of the United States in time of war to warships or vessels of belligerents against whom such warfare is waged was introduced today by Senator Saulsbury of Delaware, president pro tempore of the senate and a member of the foreign relation committee. At his request it was referred to the committee.